

Who We Are

Columbia Legal Services is a civil legal aid organization that advances social, economic, and racial equity for people living in poverty. We support communities and movements by bringing deep legal expertise that is grounded in – and strongly guided by – an understanding of race equity. We seek systemic solutions by bringing class action lawsuits, using cutting edge legal theories, engaging in policy advocacy, and supporting communities in building their own power. We have a special responsibility to serve people whose access to free legal services is restricted, due to institutionalized or immigration status.

At CLS we seek for our team to reflect our organizational values of community, race equity, and justice. This includes hiring staff with connection to the communities we serve, where feasible, and a commitment to strive for justice and equity in our hiring practices and in our staff culture.

Positions Available

Interns are given the opportunity to participate in systemic advocacy on behalf of low-income people by engaging in legal research and writing, policy advocacy, and community outreach and education. Our summer internships are full-time and require a 10-12 week commitment.

COVID-19 Protocol: At the time of this posting, the CLS team is projecting intern work for 2022 will be done partially remotely, with some time spent in the office or in the communities we serve. We will offer onsite workspace for interns when needed and may require that some or all interns be based in or near a specific office, even if work is primarily completed remotely.

Advocacy Interns (All Locations) (2 positions)

Interns will work alongside the Advocacy Team to assist with litigation and policy advocacy to address two systems that work to harm and oppress communities living in poverty and communities of color in Washington: the immigration system and system of mass incarceration. Strong research and writing skills and interest in the criminal legal and immigration systems are preferred, as is lived experience as a person directly impacted by these systems. Ending Mass Incarceration (EMI) advocacy priorities include treatment of youth in the juvenile and adult criminal legal systems, conditions of confinement in Washington's jails and prisons, significant and permanent reduction of the state prison and jail populations, and the protection and creation of rights for people reentering the community following incarceration. Promoting Immigrant Equity (PIE) priorities include litigation and policy efforts to improve wages and work conditions in concert with farmworker groups engaged in self-organizing, and to address systemic civil rights issues for immigrants in farmworker communities.

Laurel Rubin Farmworker Justice Interns (Yakima, Wenatchee) (2 positions)

The Laurel Rubin Farm Worker Justice interns will work alongside Promoting Immigrant Equity (PIE) table to support litigation and policy efforts of the to improve wages and work conditions in concert with farmworker groups engaged in self-organizing, and to address systemic civil rights issues for immigrants in farmworker communities. Interns will engage in investigation, legal research and writing, and community outreach, primarily to labor encampments. Interns are funded positions with a \$6,000 stipend. Laurel Rubin interns must speak fluent Spanish.

Qualifications

Applicants must:

- Be committed to advancing systemic advocacy on behalf of low-income communities;
- Have excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively;
- Possess dependable computer skills in word processing and legal research.

Compensation

CLS is committed to compensating interns and offers fair compensation through the following: school or externship credit, work-study, external fellowship or public interest grants, the Laurel Rubin stipend (\$6,000, for Laurel Rubin interns only), or at an hourly rate of \$18 per hour. We will partner with the selected candidate to determine which compensation method makes the most sense once an offer is extended.

To Apply

Send a cover letter, resume, and a short writing sample, in PDF format, to careers@columbialegal.org. Please make **2022 Summer Internship** your subject line. We accept applications on a rolling basis. CLS will only contact you if we decide to pursue your application. If you need a reasonable accommodation for the application process, please contact the above email address.

We are committed to an environment of mutual respect, collaboration, and equal opportunity for all employees, and strongly encourage applications from people of color, immigrants, people who have been affected by mass incarceration, and other underrepresented and historically marginalized groups. We believe in building and sustaining an organization that is reflective of the communities we serve, and is diverse in work background, experience, education, race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, national origin, or sensory, mental and physical abilities. We believe that the resulting diversity is both a source of program strength and a matter of fundamental human fairness.